



The Trustees of Reservations

Conserving the
Massachusetts Landscape
Since 1891

SPECIAL PLACES

Volume 6, No. 3 ☞ Summer 1998

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
For Members and Donors of
The Trustees of Reservations



The Mashpee River: One of the finest brook trout streams on Cape Cod.

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Another Milestone Reached In The Protection of The Mashpee River

The ongoing story of the successful protection of the Mashpee River may be the most inspiring of any in which The Trustees has ever been involved.

Since at least 1915, if not earlier, spirited conservation efforts—first by visionary individuals and later by strong public-private partnerships—have led to the protection of this 5-mile tidal river which begins at Mashpee/Wakeby Pond and empties into Pirate's Cove on Popponneset Bay.

The story, if written, would appropriately begin with John W. Farley, an avid fisherman and naturalist from Needham, who, in the early decades of this century, painstakingly acquired contiguous parcels of land along the northern portion of the Mashpee River, establishing a small camp and canoe launch just south of Route 28. In 1959, Mr. Farley generously donated this land to The Trustees of Reservations to establish the Mashpee River Reservation, and twenty years later, the reservation was expanded by a gift of land from Pemberton Whitcomb.

The plot of the story would then trace the more recent work of a group of local conservationists who formed The Friends of Mashpee River in 1985 to campaign for the river's wider protection. In particular, the group came together

to acquire a 250-acre property along the river's east bank which could have become the site of a golf course and over 200 condominium units. Working with an inspired and conservation-minded developer, Earle Marsters (who owned the land) and Tom Fudula, the Town of Mashpee's town planner, the group assisted the town in acquiring the land. The town later acquired another 36 acres and linked the parcels to form the Mashpee River Woodlands, a public open

space enjoyed for its rich abundance of wildlife, unique river ecology, and numerous recreational opportunities.

The protection of the Mashpee River has always been—and continues to be—the goal of many individuals and groups. Included on this list must also be Herbert Stenberg (a recent land donor), The Nature Conservancy, the Mashpee Land Conservation Trust,

and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, which owns conservation land along the river used for its catch-and-release and trout research programs.

The latest protagonist in this wonderful story is Dr. Edward Fitch. Dr. Fitch's 17-acre property (see map on page 3) is not only the last piece of unprotected land within the Mashpee River Reservation, but also the last major link in what is

But the charm of this upper brook is such that we are often tempted to fish it early, and though we seldom then see anything but the small brook fish which we do our best to avoid hooking, occasionally we find some old settler or an advance guard of the "salters" and so keep hopeful.

— From the diary of John W. Farley, 1930

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Thoughts from the Executive Director...



As we approach the midpoint in the development of our *Landscape Collection Plan*, our next task is to determine priorities for our landscape protection efforts in the coming years.

We need your help. As stewards of the Massachusetts landscape, you have a role to play in identifying specific landscapes that deserve permanent protection by The Trustees and our conservation partners around the state.

This is your chance to put on our founder, Charles Eliot's thinking cap and envision the Massachusetts landscape twenty years from now. Ask yourself, "Which landscapes will likely be lost to development unless The Trustees or its partners intervene? Are there little-known jewels or favorite spots where you live or travel that should be protected?" Tell us about them! We welcome your nominations.

While we cannot act on every nomination, we do promise to review and assess each carefully according to the information you provide, additional information we may have, and our land conservation criteria. Please tell us if your nomination should remain confidential; otherwise, we would like to share it—as appropriate—with our conservation colleagues. I hope you will accept this invitation to alert us to special places of importance to you.

Of course, identifying new landscapes to protect is just one role of the *Landscape Collection Plan*. Another one—of equal importance but, perhaps, a greater challenge—is the protection of *critical lands*. Also called *inholdings*, these are unprotected parcels of land vitally important to the character, integrity, or significance of our existing and proposed reservations.

In spite of the highly charged name, "critical lands," it may not be clear why we often spend so much time and energy to protect relatively small parcels of land. For The Trustees' late board member, Professor Charles Eliot II, our founder's nephew

and a distinguished town and regional planner, The Trustees' duty was always clear. In his latter years, the good professor would sit Director of Land Conservation Wes Ward and me down in straight-backed chairs in his living room, pull out his dog-eared sheaf of hand-colored reservation maps, and call for an update on our success with protecting critical lands. Those straight-backed chairs could get awfully uncomfortable if we had not made sufficient progress since our last visit!

To Professor Eliot, nothing was as important as filling out the natural boundaries of our existing reservations and linking them to nearby conservation lands. He knew how quickly opportunities disappear, ownership and family needs change, and land values climb. He was right. Attention to critical lands is an essential part of our stewardship role.

This issue's cover story reports on current land protection efforts to acquire the 17-acre Fitch property, a critical land along the Mashpee River. Last year's acquisition of the final 3 acres of unprotected land on Great Misery Island in Salem Sound and the protection of 55-acre Turkey Hill adjacent to Whitney and Thayer Woods in Hingham and Cohasset are just two other recent examples of important critical lands protection projects.

I hope you will join us in celebrating each critical lands success story and please contact our land conservation staff about how you can help identify important unprotected landscapes as we review, refine, and renew our conservation priorities.

Frederic Winthrop
Executive Director

To share your suggestions about landscapes that should be reviewed as part of The Trustees' *Landscape Collection Plan* or to receive a *Special Places Nomination Form*, contact Land Conservation Program Assistant, Sarah Cole, at 978/524-1869 or email her at landcons@tror.org.

The Trustees of Reservations

*Conserving the
Massachusetts Landscape
Since 1891*

We invite your articles, photographs, comments and suggestions. Please send them to:

Special Places
Headquarters • Long Hill
572 Essex Street
Beverly, MA 01915-1530
Tel 978/921-1944
Fax 978/921-1948
Email cmdept@tror.org

Founded in 1891, The Trustees of Reservations is a member-supported nonprofit conservation organization which preserves, for public use and enjoyment, properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts and works to protect special places across the state. Today, The Trustees owns, manages, and interprets 79 reservations totaling 20,492 acres, and protects an additional 11,423 acres through the use of conservation restrictions on 164 parcels of privately held land. The Trustees of Reservations is not an agency of state government. We rely for support entirely upon membership dues, contributions, grants, reservation receipts, special events, and endowments.

For information about becoming a member, please contact the Membership Office at 978/524-1858, or write to The Trustees at 572 Essex Street, Beverly, MA 01915-1530.

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The Mashpee River...

continued from front cover

otherwise a virtually complete greenway along the entire Mashpee River corridor, from source to mouth.

The Trustees and the Town of Mashpee, working in partnership, have reached agreement with Dr. Fitch to purchase the property. By a unanimous town meeting vote on May 4, the Town agreed to purchase the eastern two-thirds of the property, and The Trustees now must raise the final \$12,000 of our \$69,000 goal to acquire the western one-third. With the protection of Dr. Fitch's property, the long-held goal of a trail paralleling the Mashpee River, linking conserved open space owned by the Town of Mashpee, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and The Trustees, will be one step closer to reality.

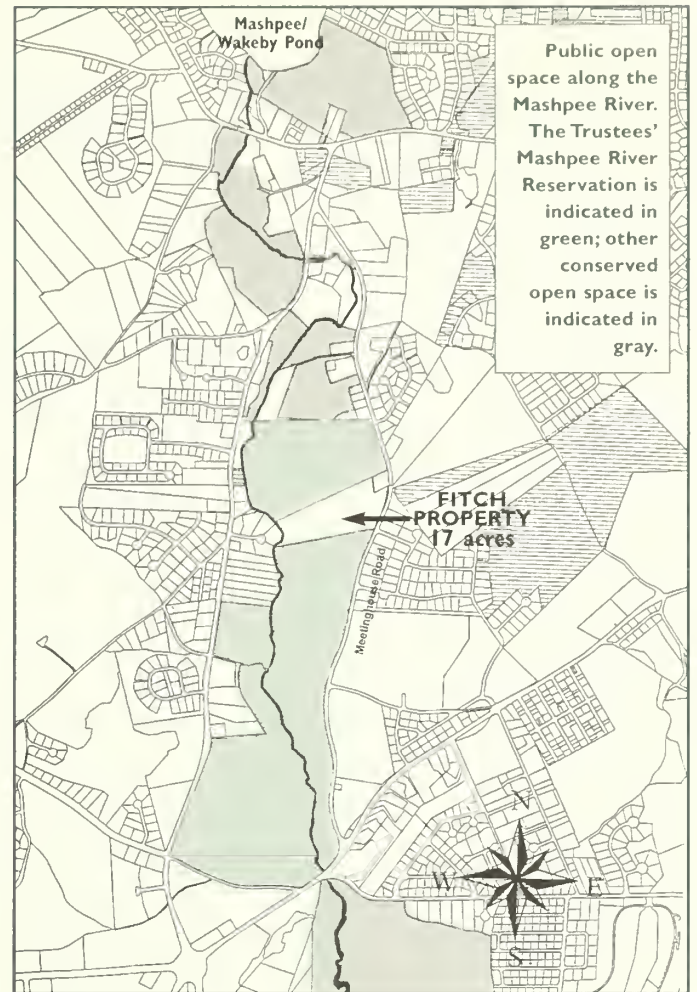
For further information, contact Land Protection Specialist, Charlie Wyman, at 978/524-1867 or email him at cwyman@ttor.org.

Conservation Count!

Thanks to the hard work of our land conservation staff and volunteers, the generosity of our many supporters, and the dedication of our numerous collaborators, The Trustees now protects 31,915 acres of land in Massachusetts.

Congratulations to all!

		Acreage Protected
Land Owned:	79 Reservations	20,492
Land Under CR:	164 Parcels	11,423
		31,915



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NEW The Malcolm Preserve: A New Model for Land Stewardship RESERVATION

In May, The Trustees jubilantly recorded the deed to the Malcolm Preserve, 11 acres of conservation land on Stearns Street in Carlisle. This special place will serve as a northern gateway into some 1,300 acres of protected land, including a 572-acre research and educational forest owned by Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology and historic Estabrook Woods.

The Malcolm Preserve, while our 79th reservation, is unique and may serve as a new model for cooperative land stewardship. It is the first reservation to be owned and managed in partnership with another conservation organization, in this case the Carlisle Conservation Foundation (CCF), an enterprising and vigorous, all-volunteer land trust founded in 1960. We expect that additional land will eventually be managed as part of the reservation.

The reservation honors Allan Malcolm, who, in the tradition of his parents, farmed part of the property for many years, selling strawberries, raspberries, vegetables, and cut flowers to the local community. Upon his death in 1992, he left the 38-acre family farm to the Carlisle Congregational

Church, which, in turn, worked with the CCF to find an alternative to conventional subdivision. With each party's goals in mind, the solution was a limited development on four acres. Twelve market rate condominium units, designed for independent senior citizens, were constructed, making it possible for the CCF and The Trustees to raise the remaining funds needed to purchase the property from the church and establish a small endowment for its upkeep. As is quite



Trustees staff work with a landscape contractor to install a handicapped-accessible trail at the Malcolm Preserve.

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The Malcolm Preserve...

Continued from page 3

common today, funds came from several sources. These included the state's Self-Help program for conservation land acquisition, the Town of Carlisle, a private foundation, and individual

One day in 1994, I believe, as we walked the property together, Ken Harte came up with the idea of a jointly-held reservation with SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES between The Trustees and the CCF. I saw this as a chance to try a new, less-expensive, and volunteer-based model of LAND STEWARDSHIP. With CCF Chair Eunice Knight's leadership, we turned the idea into a REALITY.

— Wes Ward
The Trustees of Reservations

contributors, many of whom gave to the Campaign for Estabrook Woods. The Fields Pond Foundation and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management generously assisted with initial trail construction, including a handicapped-accessible trail conforming with state standards.

Within the reservation is an impressive diversity of trees and shrubs, including walnut, catalpa, pine, oak, Eastern red cedar, beech, sumac, azalea, and blueberry, as well as familiar birds, such as the Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawk, American Woodcock, Pileated and

Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Blue-winged Warbler, and Eastern Bluebird. Walkers and naturalists will find plenty to see and do.

Along the eastern boundary of the reservation, just off Stearns Street, begins the ancient, unpaved Two Rod Road, Henry David Thoreau's frequent haunt, which, three miles later, joins up with Concord's popular Punkatasset Reserve on Monument Street.

The Malcolm Preserve, and much of its adjacent land, would not have been protected without CCF member Ken Harte's stalwart advocacy and strategic planning for connecting natural areas in Carlisle and north Concord. The Trustees will maintain the trail, meadow, roadside entrance, and parking area as well as produce basic signs, an information board, and an interpretive trail map. As time allows, we will expand the trail system to include two trail loops, including one that is fully accessible for wheelchairs and baby strollers. The CCF will provide ongoing monitoring and litter pick-up and help Trustees staff, from time to time, with general upkeep.

As we go to press, a formal opening for the Malcolm Preserve is being planned for the fall. ☘

The Making of a Greenway

The Malcolm Preserve is part of an expanding greenway. It is adjoined by 23.4 acres of land owned by the Town of Carlisle. An adjacent 34-acre tract of conservation land forms the Davis Conservation Corridor, also owned by the Town of Carlisle, and, south of the reservation, Jonathan and Winifred Sachs recently placed another 44 acres of land under a conservation restriction jointly held by The Trustees and the CCF. South of the Sachs property is Harvard's forest and Concord's Punkatasset Reserve.

TRAILS PROJECT

Focus on Monument Mountain

Thanks to generous grants from three different funding sources, access to 1642-foot Squaw Peak at Monument Mountain in Great Barrington will soon be improved and made more safe. As reported in the Winter 1998 issue of *Special Places*, The Trustees received \$8,000 from the Fields Pond Foundation, \$3,000 from the Rush Taggart Fund, and \$5,000 from the Recreational Trails Program of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management for this very important project.

At present, there is only a single, terminal trail leading to Squaw Peak. With over 5,000 visitors coming each year to Monument Mountain to enjoy the 360 degree vista from Squaw Peak, this trail is increasingly being worn and eroded, in parts down to its sandstone strata, making ascent unsafe for the inexperienced hiker. The grants will allow The Trustees to rebuild the steep, final ascent of the trail leading to Squaw Peak. At the same time, to spread trail

impact, we will install a new connector trail from Squaw Peak down the western spine of the mountain to existing Indian Monument Trail, thereby creating a loop. Along this connector trail, several spur trails will be cleared leading to vistas, one giving fantastic views of the famous Devil's Pulpit.

If all goes as planned, trails work will be completed in time for next year's Centennial Celebration. The nature and scope of this project has created a special training opportunity for other trails maintenance professionals. On September 15-16, The Trustees and Openspace Management (OM) will jointly sponsor a two-day Trail Construction Workshop for thirty professionals. The workshop will use the Monument Mountain trail system as a demonstration site. Led by Trail Designer Peter Jensen of OM, the workshop will cover such topics as trail and vista clearing, sidehill cutting and filling, tread leveling, stone paving, stone cribbing, and drainage. A workshop fee of \$90 per person includes three meals. For further information, contact Superintendent Gordon Clark at 413/298-3239 or email him at westregion@ttor.org. ☘



On October 19, 1999, The Trustees will celebrate a century of conserving Monument Mountain for public use and enjoyment.

C A L E N D A R

A Listing of Updated and Newly Scheduled Fall Events

CENTRAL REGION

SUN, SEPT 6 – 12 NOON to 5 P.M.

3rd Annual Old-Fashioned Melon Party

The Old Manse, Concord 978/369-3909

We have water-melons in good advancement; and musk melons have come up within three or four days...So writes Nathaniel Hawthorne in his journal at The Old Manse in 1843. Enjoy 19th century outdoor games, tours of the house and landscape, and, of course, the savory melons! Members: adult \$3; senior, student, and child (6-12) \$2. Non-members: adult \$6; senior, student, and child (6-12) \$4.

SAT, SEPT 12 – 8 A.M. to 11 A.M.

Canoe Coddling's Meadow

Doane's Falls, Royalston 978/840-4446

Join us for a morning canoe/kayak trip up Lawrence Brook through Coddling's Meadow, which provides habitat for numerous species of plants and animals. Please provide your own canoe. Meet at Doane's Falls in Royalston. Life jackets are required for all participants. Pre-registration required by September 5. Members & Non-members: FREE.

SAT, SEPT 19 – 9 A.M. to 10 A.M.

Treasures and Tales Children's Only Tour

The Old Manse, Concord 978/369-3909

Discover the hidden treasures and secrets of The Old Manse on this special children's tour (ages 6-10). We will explore the people and past of the house through games and stories. Members: child \$3. Non-members: child \$5.

SAT, SEPT 26 – 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Canoe Tully River and Long Pond

Jacobs Hill, Royalston 978/840-4446

Paddle your canoe/kayak with us on an interpretive tour across Tully Lake and up the Tully River. Meet at the boat launch at the Army Corps of Engineers' Tully Dam Recreation Area. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the scenic vista on Jacobs Hill. The trail up Jacobs Ridge is a moderate to strenuous hike. Life jackets are required for all participants. Pre-registration required by September 19. Members & Non-members: FREE.

SAT, OCT 3 – 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Natural History Tour of Nichewaugh Tract

Nichewaugh Tract of Swift River Reservation, Petersham 978/840-4446

Pack a snack and take a hike with naturalist and long-time Petersham resident, Bob Clark. Hikers will explore a variety of habitats from the upland meadows and wooded ridges down to the banks of the Swift River. Meet at the reservation entrance on Nichewaugh Road. Pre-registration required by Sept 26. Members & Non-members: FREE.

SUN, OCT 11 – 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Rock House Fall Foliage Festival

Rock House, West Brookfield 978/840-4446

Celebrate autumn at the Rock House! Natural and cultural history tours and special programs will be given throughout

the day by Trustees staff and Friends of the Rock House. The annual canoe ride on the Quabog River will take place in the morning. Bring your canoe and join the group on this incredibly scenic river. Members & Non-members: FREE.

FRI, OCT 23 and SAT, OCT 24 – 7 P.M. to 9 P.M.

An Old Manse Mystery

The Old Manse, Concord 978/369-3909

Join us for some murder mayhem at The Old Manse. You get to play the detective by looking for clues to piece together the answer of our *who-dunnit*. For more information on prices and to make reservations, call Laurie Butters at 978/369-3909.

SAT, OCT 24 – 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Volunteer Work Day at Jacobs Hill

Jacobs Hill, Royalston 978/840-4446

A great day to volunteer and do some trail work! Fringe benefits include terrific views from the overlook and a stop at scenic Spirit Falls. Wear sturdy work clothes and bring a bag lunch. Some tools will be provided, but feel free to bring bow saws, hand pruners, and lopping shears. Meet at Jacobs Hill entrance on Warwick Road (Rte. 68). Pre-registration required by October 17. Members & Non-members: FREE.

SAT, NOV 7 – 6 P.M.

Rock House Dinner & Auction

Ye Olde Tavern Restaurant, Main Street, West Brookfield

An annual event not to be missed! Items up for bid include goods and services from local businesses, artists, craftspeople, and delicious baked goods from Friends of the Rock House. Cocktails at 5:30 P.M., dinner at 6 P.M. Auctioneer Joe Craig of J&S Enterprises will begin the auction at 7:30 P.M. All proceeds benefit the Rock House. Pre-registration required by October 15. Please call 978/840-4446. Members & Non-members: \$25 per couple (includes dinner).

SAT, NOV 21 – 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Volunteer Work Day at Nichewaugh Tract

Nichewaugh Tract of Swift River Reservation, Petersham 978/840-4446

Volunteer to help us clear and re-cut old trails and establish a new one. Wear sturdy work clothes and bring a bag lunch. Some tools will be provided, but feel free to bring bow saws, hand pruners, and lopping shears. Meet at reservation entrance on Nichewaugh Road. Pre-registration required by November 14. Members & Non-members: FREE.

ISLANDS REGION

SUN, SEPT 20 – 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Wasque Shorebirds Walk

Wasque, Martha's Vineyard 508/693-7662

Experience the end of the shorebird migration season on a walk along the beach and Katama Bay. Be prepared for a windy walk. Meet at Wasque Bathing Beach parking lot. Members: adult \$3, child (under 15) \$1. Non-members: adult \$6, child (under 15) \$2.

SUN, OCT 18 – 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Menemsha Hills Walk

Menemsha Hills, Martha's Vineyard 508/693-7662

Explore the rolling hills of this up-island property. Meet at Menemsha Hills parking area off North Road. Members: adult \$3, child (under 15) \$1. Non-members: adult \$6, child (under 15) \$2.

SUN, NOV 22 – 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Long Point Waterfowl

Long Point Wildlife Refuge, Martha's Vineyard 508/693-7662

Look for waterfowl and wildlife preparing for winter on this walk along the coast of Long Cove and Tisbury Great Pond. Prepare for cool, windy weather. Meet at Long Point winter parking lot, via Deep Bottom Road. Members: adult \$3, child (under 15) \$1. Non-members: adult \$6, child (under 15) \$2.

NORTHEAST REGION

SEPTEMBER through OCTOBER

Enjoy autumn's colors on these great tours in the Northeast region. Please call for more information and to make reservations.

Guided Tours of The Great House at Castle Hill

(Wednesdays & Thursdays through October 8)

Castle Hill, Ipswich 978/356-4351

Crane Islands Tour (Daily through Columbus Day)

The Crane Wildlife Refuge, Essex 978/356-4351

Misery Islands Tours (Daily through Labor Day; Weekends through Columbus Day)

Misery Islands, Salem Bay 978/741-1900

Group Guided Tours of the Sedgwick Gardens

Long Hill, Beverly 978/921-1944

TUES, SEPT 8 – 9:30 A.M. to 12 NOON

Landscaping in Drifts of One: Residential Design for Plant Collectors

Castle Hill, Ipswich 978/921-1944

Searching to position a single potted treasure you just couldn't pass up? Innovative nurseryman, Tony Avent, will help! *This lecture is co-sponsored with the Arnold Arboretum.* Pre-registration required. Members: adult \$12. Non-members: adult \$15.

SUN, SEPT 13 – 12 NOON

Grandparents Picnic in Castle Hill's Tower Garden

Castle Hill, Ipswich 978/356-4351

Celebrate Grandparent's Day. We'll bring the dessert! Special prize awarded to the family with the most generations in attendance. Members: FREE. Non-members: \$5 per car.

SUN, SEPT 27 – 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

4th Annual Concours d'Elegance Car Show

Castle Hill, Ipswich 978/356-4351

Castle Hill hosts this 4th annual Car Show organized by the Vintage Sports Car Club of America and sponsored by BMW. The Concours features pre-World War II American and European cars and pre-1960 vintage racing and sports cars. The *Blue Horizon Jazz Band* will set the mood by performing period favorites. Members: adult \$12, child \$5. Non-members: adult \$15, child \$8.

TUES, SEPT 29 – 9:30 A.M. to 12 NOON

Tough Roses for Every Garden

Long Hill, Beverly 978/921-1944

Learn all about roses and more with professional rosarian Steven Scanniello. Members: adult \$10. Non-members: adult \$12.

SAT, OCT 3

3rd Annual Ravenswood Park Cross Country Running Race

1/2 mi. Kids Fun-Run (6-12) 9:45 A.M. – Race start 10:00 A.M.

Ravenswood Park, Gloucester 978/281-0041

4.2 mi. run through Ravenswood. Prizes awarded in 3 categories: 16-21, 22-40, and over 40. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$15.

SUN, OCT 4 – 1 P.M.

Nature Hike at Castle Hill

Castle Hill, Ipswich 978/356-4351

Our guide will take you on our back roads exploring forest, marsh, and beach. Members: FREE. Non-members: \$5 per car.

TUES, OCT 6 – 7 P.M.

Gardens and Landscapes of the New Republic

Castle Hill, Ipswich 978/356-4351

Lucinda Brockway, President of Past Designs, will give a slide presentation looking at the development of an American landscape design form from the mid-18th through the mid-19th century. Members: adult \$10. Non-members: adult \$12.

TUES, OCT 6 – 9:30 A.M. to 12 NOON

Forcing Bulbs for Winter Color

Long Hill, Beverly 978/921-1944

There is nothing like watching tender shoots appear from a pot of soil as the snow piles outside. Learn from Mary Ann Streeter, who has given innumerable workshops for the Garden Club Federation. Members: adult \$20. Non-members: adult \$25.

SUN, OCT 11 and MON, OCT 12 – 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Great House Fall Foliage Tours

Castle Hill, Ipswich 978/356-4351

Join us for special weekend tours of the Great House, Castle Hill's 59-room Stuart-style mansion by the sea. Members: FREE. Non-members: adult \$7, child and senior \$5.

SUN, NOV 8 – 8 A.M. to SUNSET

Horseback Riding on Crane Beach

Crane Beach, Ipswich 978/356-4351

Ride your horse over four plus miles of beautiful sandy beach. The regular horse trailer permit fee will be waived for the day. Participants must provide their own horses. Members: \$2.50 per car. Non-members: \$5 per car.

MON, NOV 9 – 7 P.M.

Management Challenges in the Lake District: Landscapes, Farms, and Villages

Castle Hill, Ipswich 978/356-4351

Dr. Oliver Maurice, Regional Director of the Cumbria Region (Lake District) of the National Trust of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, will discuss how The National Trust is working to maintain the delicate balance between man and nature, farmer and visitor. The lecture is preceded by a house tour. Members: adult \$10. Non-members: adult \$12.

SOUTHEAST REGION

SATURDAYS SEPTEMBER through OCTOBER – 7 A.M.

Birding at World's End

World's End, Hingham 781/749-8956

Join us for informal bird walks on Saturday mornings, *rain or shine*. Meet at the ranger station and venture forth with a group of birding enthusiasts who are intimately familiar with

the environs of this spectacular landscape. Members: FREE.
Non-members: Regular admission fee.

SAT, SEPT 26 – 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Charles River Canoe Trip

Rocky Narrows, Sherborn 508/389-7815

Arrive by canoe and visit Rocky Narrows for a guided hike and picnic lunch. Bring your canoe, life jackets, warm clothes, and lunch. Limited to 10 canoes. Meet at Rte. 27 bridge across the Charles River in Medfield. Pre-registration required by calling Bob Costello at telephone number above. Members & Non-members: FREE.

SAT, OCT 3 – 10 A.M.

Noanet Woodlands Work Day

Noanet Woodlands, Dover 508/785-0339

Join us as we complete several trail improvement projects. Bring a lunch, work clothes, gloves, shears, rakes, shovels, and hand tools. *This event is organized in conjunction with the New England Mountain Bike Association.* Meet at Powisset Farm on Powisset Street in Dover. Members & Non-members: FREE.

SAT, OCT 3 and OCT 10 – 8 A.M.

Introduction to Birding at World's End

World's End, Hingham 781/749-8956

These walks are designed to introduce you to the basics of birding and will focus on equipment needs as well as habitats that attract various types of birds. Meet at the ranger station, *rain or shine*. Members: FREE. Non-members: Regular admission fee.

WESTERN REGION

SUNDAYS – SEPT 20, OCT 4, & OCT 11 – 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Hawks: Field Identification

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls 413/229-8600

A great diversity of migrating hawk species move through the Housatonic River Valley at this time of year. A great spot to look is from the top of Hurlbut's Hill at Bartholomew's Cobble! Learn the amazing life histories of these birds of prey. Bring a snack. Members: FREE. Non-members: adult \$5, child (6-12) \$1.

SAT, SEPT 26 – 12:30 P.M.

Booksigning at Naumkeag

Naumkeag, Stockbridge 413/298-3239

Samuel G. White, author of the recently published *The Houses of McKim, Mead & White* and great grandson of Stanford White, will be signing copies of this new book (available at Naumkeag's Museum Shop). Bring a picnic and enjoy a talk on the architects and special tours of the property. Members & Non-members: \$5.

COMING IN OCTOBER

Fall Trail Day at Notchview

Notchview, Windsor 413/684-0148

Join us for a volunteer day of trail maintenance and upgrade on our extensive trail system. A great way to get in shape for the upcoming cross-country ski season! *Please call in September for date and time.* Members & Non-members: FREE.

FRI, OCT 9 – 6:30 P.M. to 9 P.M.

Workshop: Nature Photography in Fall

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls 413/229-8600

Well known nature photographer and naturalist, John Green, will teach you how to use a 35mm camera in nature photography.

A 6-hour field course is scheduled for the next day. Space is limited, please pre-register. Members: adult \$20. Non-members: adult \$25.

SAT, OCT 10 – 8 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Field Program: Nature Photography in Fall

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls 413/229-8600

Nature photographer and naturalist, John Green, will use fall in New England as your backdrop for this outdoor nature photography program. Space is limited, so please pre-register. Members: adult \$40. Non-members: adult \$50.

FRI, OCT 16 through TUES, OCT 20

Following the Birds South: Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania and Cape May, New Jersey

Join Ecologist Don Reid and MAS Berkshire Sanctuaries Director René Laubach on this raptor extravaganza! Follow the hawks south to the best known migration sites on the east coast. For the novice or the experienced. For information and an itinerary, call Don at 413/229-8600 or René at 413/637-0320.

SAT, OCT 24 – 3 P.M. to 9 P.M.

The Haunted Dungeons of Naumkeag

Naumkeag, Stockbridge 413/229-8600

Get ready to hop on your brooms... 'cause *it's back!* The best haunted house returns for another night of spine-tingling thrills and chills. The fun begins at 3 P.M. with tours for the kids. The evening gets scarier as the moon rises! Members & non-members: adult \$5, child (6-12) \$2.

SAT, OCT 24 and SAT, NOV 14 – 8 P.M. to 10 P.M.

Night Hike: Owl Prowl

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls 413/229-8600

Listen and learn about night sounds on this quiet adventure into the forest. Great Horned Owls are courting at this time of year, and we may get lucky and find one of these amazing creatures of the night. Dress warm. Members: adult \$3, child (6-12) \$1. Non-members: adult \$6, child (6-12) \$2.

SAT, NOV 7 – 9 A.M.

Salmon Program at Chesterfield Gorge

Chesterfield Gorge, Chesterfield 413/684-0148

The Atlantic Salmon restoration on the Connecticut River is beginning to show results! Salmon are living in the pools within Chesterfield Gorge and have been tracked up the Westfield River as far as Notchview. John O'Leary of the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will locate tagged salmon in the river and discuss their fascinating life history. Members & Non-members: FREE.

SAT, NOV 7 – 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

First Annual Northwest Connecticut Waterfowl Census

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls 413/229-8600

For over 50 years, the Hoffman Bird Club in Pittsfield has been gathering data on migratory waterfowl in central and southern Berkshire County. Starting this year, we will extend that data collection area into Northwest Connecticut. We will carpool from Bartholomew's Cobble. Members & Non-members: FREE.

Check Out This Upcoming Natural Adventure!

SPRING 1999 – Birding Southeast Arizona

Join Western Regional Ecologist Don Reid on this Arizona adventure. Date to be announced in the Winter issue of *Special Places*. Call Don at 413/229-8600 for more information.

NOTEWORTHY

News & Shorts of All Sorts

A Reading of *The Rivulet*. This spring, Bill Girardi, Assistant Superintendent at The William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington, read Bryant's poem, *The Rivulet*, at a poetry reading co-sponsored by The Boston Public Library and The Library of Congress. This event was part of *The Favorite Poem Project*, a special undertaking by U.S. Poet Laureate, Robert Pinsky, to create an audio and video archive of Americans reading their favorite poems at the end of the millennium.

In Search of the Purple Tiger Beetle. In April, Islands Regional Ecologist, Lloyd Raleigh discovered a rare and threatened population of *Cicindela purpurea* (Purple tiger beetle) in an open, heavily disturbed sandy area at Wasque on Chappaquiddick Island. This was only the 11th reported population ever recorded in Massachusetts. The beetle gets its name from the way it hunts for insects and is easily identified by its purple wing covers (*elytra*), golden eyes and mandibles, iridescent green thorax and legs, and bright blue underside.

Drawing by Laura Holloman

Wildlife Landscaping at Turkey Hill. Thanks to generous donations and services provided by the Cohasset Garden Club, the Hingham Garden Club, the Hingham Land Conservation Trust (HLCT), and the Cohasset Conservation Trust (CCT), a hedgerow, entrance grove, and knoll grove have been planted at Turkey Hill's crest. Many native species valued by wildlife for food and cover have been used. In addition, the CCT has pledged funds to enhance the trail leading from the Route 3A parking lot. Readers may recall that the HLCT and CCT were partners in the recent acquisition of Turkey Hill. They continue to play a vital role in its management.



A high five for Mutt Mitts®!

Mutt Mitts® a Big Hit with Dog Walkers. Many dog walkers at Crane Beach, World's End, Noanet Woodlands, Rocky Woods, Whitney and Thayer Woods, and the Norris Reservation are raving about our new Mutt Mitts®. Dispensed from a roll, they are handy to use, durable, easy to dispose of, and biodegradable, giving our well-intentioned visitors and their

canine companions a convenient, environmentally friendly way to help us keep these popular reservations clean. Already, the Metropolitan District Commission and several open space/conservation organizations are using them at heavily frequented sites in the Boston area and along the North and South shores.

Mutt Mitts® are a product of Intelligent Products Incorporated.

Volunteers Help Attract Bluebirds to The Crane Wildlife Refuge. A team of *Boston Cares* volunteers spent a day this spring at The Crane Wildlife Refuge in Essex working with staff to undertake several important conservation projects, including assembling and installing new bluebird nesting boxes. Under the



of Membership & Volunteer Involvement, Susan McGarvey, at 978/524-1859 or email her at ttormemb@ttor.org.

A Fond Farewell. Katrina Hart, Frannie Colburn, and Carroll Cabot enjoy a moment on the front steps of the Great House at Castle Hill. They have served for 20 years on the Castle Hill House Committee. Thank you all for everything that you have done!



A New Member from West Virginia! A warm welcome to Steve Thayer of Grafton, West Virginia who was given membership in The Trustees after his cousin read our *Member Profile* story in the last issue of *Special Places*. We are now just three states away (Mississippi, North Dakota, and South Dakota) from being supported by at least one member from every state in the country, including Alaska and Hawaii!

Watching Over Rare Grasses in Westport. While monitoring a conservation restriction in Westport, Natural Resources Planning Assistant, Russ Hopping, found populations of two rare perennial grass species, *Tripsacum dactyloides* (Northern Gama Grass) and *Sporobolus compositus* (Tall Dropseed Grass). This site represents the only known Massachusetts population of Northern Gama Grass, which somewhat resembles maize (corn), and Tall Dropseed Grass is on the state's 'watch list' of possibly threatened species. Both grasses require open, sunny conditions to thrive and are threatened when shrubs and small trees encroach upon their habitat. The Trustees, with the enthusiastic cooperation of the Westport landowner, have enlisted the help of the New England Wildflower Society. Their Rare Plant Monitoring Volunteer Corps will visit the site periodically, remove invading shrubs and trees, and monitor the health of the grasses.

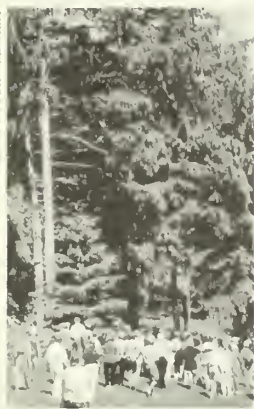
Northern Gama Grass

On the Ocean Lawn at the Coolidge Reservation in Manchester-by-the-Sea, the footprint of Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, Jr.'s 1903 mansion (known locally as the "Marble Palace") is gradually being outlined in blue stone to help interpret for visitors the history of this special place.



Noteworthy...continued

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Visitors Step Back in Time at Moraine Farm. In May, a public open day was held at Moraine Farm in North Beverly, hosted by owners George and Mimi Batchelder. Over 400 visitors came to enjoy a slide show and walking tour of this historic site. The Trustees and The Essex County Greenbelt Association jointly hold a conservation and historic preservation restriction on Moraine Farm, the 175-acre forest, farm, and residence established by John C. Phillips in 1880 and landscaped by Frederick Law Olmsted.

The Trustees Welcomes New Staff Members.

- Marge Balzotti, Southeast Regional Administrative Assistant
- Wayne Castonguay, Northeast Regional Ecologist
- Lisa Cotter, Crane Properties Receptionist
- Ina Drouin, Associate Director of Development
- Alisa Harding Stein, Publications Assistant
- Victoria Szopinski, Northeast Regional Outreach Coordinator
- Pat Toomey, Windsor Mgmt. Unit Maintenance Technician
- Heather Wager, Associate Director of Development

Wes Ward explains our work in the Charles River Valley at a party held in May to honor The 1891 Society. The event, also attended by members of The Charles Eliot Society and The Semper Virens Society, was held at the Needham home of Cynthia Lyman. The Trustees owns 14 reservations in the Charles River Valley totaling 2,542 acres and protects another 1,294 acres through conservation restrictions, including one on the Lyman property.



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Morgan Bulkeley Natural History Room Dedicated at Bartholomew's Cobble. The man who almost single-handedly "cobbled the Cobble together" during the 1960s, 70s, and 80s was honored this spring when the Natural History Room at Bartholomew's Cobble was named in his honor. Morgan Bulkeley III, who, for 14 years, wrote a natural history column for *The Berkshire Eagle*, was



responsible for expanding Bartholomew's Cobble from its original 20 acres to its present 278. He also worked tirelessly for its design-

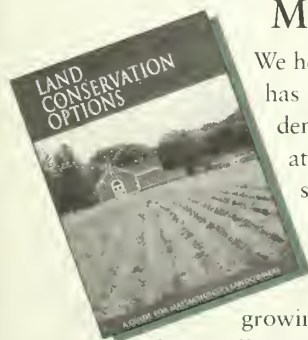
nation in 1972 as a National Natural Landmark. Morgan's unique definition of a "cobble" hangs framed in the Natural History Room: *It's a scenic, rocky eminence rising from the valley floor, too modest to be called a mountain, yet with all the concentrated attractiveness of a wild strawberry shortcake or a blueberry cobbler!*

New Intern Facility Completed at Greenwood Farm.

In recent years, The Trustees has been contacted by students from all over New England seeking internships either as part of their formal education or simply to gain critical work experience in their field of endeavor. While internship opportunities abound, we have not been able to offer convenient, basic intern accommodation that would allow students to come from far away. At least, not until now! At Greenwood Farm in Ipswich, we have just converted a wing of the farmhouse into a housing facility for six interns. Donations of furniture in good condition are welcome, such as bureaus, single beds, tables, couches, and chairs. *For further information or to donate furniture, contact Superintendent, Mark Bailey, at 978/356-4755 or email him at neregion@ttor.org.*

PUBLICATIONS

Updated Conservation Handbook for Massachusetts Landowners

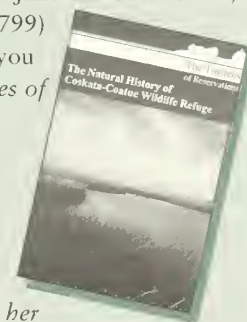


We hear it all the time: "Land conservation has never been more complicated or more demanding." To continue to be successful at protecting special places across the state—now and in the new millennium—we all must engage in creative strategic thinking, develop new conservation tools and techniques, and sustain a growing collaborative spirit. To help guide future efforts, the Land Conservation Center at The

Trustees and The Essex County Greenbelt Association have just published a substantial revision of its conservation handbook for Massachusetts landowners called *Land Conservation Options*. The handbook costs \$3 plus \$1.50 for packaging and postage. To order a copy or for further information, contact Land Conservation Center Program Assistant, Sarah Cole, at 978/524-1869 or email her at landcons@ttor.org.

New Natural History Guidebook to Coshkata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge

We have just published a new guidebook to the natural wonders of Coshkata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge on Nantucket. *The Natural History of Coshkata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge*, written by Lloyd Raleigh, explains the geologic history which shaped the Refuge and describes the assorted plant, animal, and insect communities which live in/on the Refuge's woodlands, wetlands, dune complexes, and beaches. Those taking a Great Point Natural History Tour of Coshkata-Coatue (offered June 1 – October 13, daily at 8:30 A.M. and 2 P.M.; 508/228-6799) can pick up a copy in person for \$4, or you may send a check payable to *The Trustees of Reservations* for \$5 (includes packaging and postage) to: The Trustees of Reservations, Islands Regional Office, P.O. Box 2106, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568-2106. For further information, contact Islands Administrative Assistant, Nicole Pigott, at 508/693-7662 or email her at islands@ttor.org.



FUNDED IN PART BY THE ARTHUR H. PHILLIPS FUND FOR INTERPRETATION

ECOLOGY

Burning a Landscape in Order to Save It

The Sandplain ecosystem of coastal Long Island and southeastern New England is among the most unusual on earth. Formed by ice and shaped by wind, rain, and fire, grassy sandplain moors are home to dozens of rare plants and animals.

That is, they used to be.

Once European settlers arrived, the land was turned to grazing, farming, or development. Today, only a few thousand acres of undeveloped sandplain remain, and they have been gradually over run with alien species, especially the scrubby pitch pines that shade out native grasses and wildflowers and the insects, mammals, and birds they support. Now conservation workers are trying to reclaim this ecosystem by reviving one of the forces that originally shaped it: fire.

Centuries ago, the plains would periodically be dotted with wildfires or fires set by Indians to facilitate hunting. By the turn of the century, though, the remaining patches of sandplain were too close to people and their homes. Fire suppression became the order of the day. As pitch pine forests spread, shading the ground and burying it in pine needles, the change rippled up the food chain. Sandplain gerardia, blue-eyed grass, and other wildflowers began to disappear with barrens buck moths, purple tiger beetles, and other insect species. The swooping flocks of swallows that favor open fields went elsewhere. One sandplain bird, the heath hen, became extinct in the 1930s.

But it is not too late for many other species which conservation organizations are trying to preserve. For a while, they tried simply cutting the pitch pine forests. But that leaves in place organic debris that accumulates even when the pines are gone, in a layer of "duff" that can choke native plants. Fire destroys this duff. Plus, its heat helps seeds from many native plants to germinate, and the acidic ash left behind creates just the growing conditions they like. So, for the last few years, the conservationists have turned to fire.

This spring the Nature Conservancy, working with several other conservation organizations, has conducted 20

"prescribed burns" on Martha's Vineyard, said Joel Carlson, TNC's fire manager in Massachusetts. The burns take place only when wind, temperature, humidity, and other weather conditions fit certain limits. *The idea is to burn a small area at a time, he said, so that the insects, birds, and other animals can find habitat nearby until the burned area begins to regrow. Fire is an amazingly beneficial process for plants and animals that are adapted, but burning itself is not beneficial to any,* Mr. Carlson said.

This month, he and his crew finished the season's work at Wasque, a conservation area on the east end of the Vineyard owned by The Trustees of Reservations, a Massachusetts conservation organization. In the past few


years, The Trustees has turned hundreds of acres of pitch pine forest into broad swaths of grassland moor.

Waiting for the season's last burn to begin, Lloyd Raleigh, The Trustees' Regional Ecologist for Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and the Elizabeth Islands, bent down to examine the regrowth in a nearby area that had been burned. The emerging blanket of green was a weave of many botanical threads. *These are asters right here,* he said, pointing to tiny leaves sprouting on a tiny stem. *These*

will be blooming nice and purple in August. He ran his hand over brownish sprigs and continued the inventory of the small patch of ground. *This is heather. Trailing arbutus. Dwarf cinquefoil. Pennsylvania sedge. It's an early bloomer.* A hawk glided across the sky and he looked up. *Look at that northern harrier,* he exclaimed. *They are threatened in Massachusetts. It's going around looking for meadow voles, and meadow voles thrive in this.*

A few hours later, the fire was out, and about 30 acres of ground were dusted with dark gray ash. Pitch pines, their needles scorched and burned off, stuck up here or there. A few yards away was another newly burned patch, 12 acres ignited two weeks before. At first glance, it looked like scorched earth, but already green shoots were poking out of the ash.

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For further information on our Prescribed Burn Program, contact Islands Regional Ecologist, Lloyd Raleigh, at 508/693-7662 or email him at lraleigh@ttor.org. 

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Trustees staff work with a team from The Vineyard Sandplain Restoration project to carry out a prescribed burn at Wasque.

MANAGEMENT PLANNING At Rocky Woods

In the months ahead, 491-acre Rocky Woods in Medfield will undergo a major transformation.

About two years ago, a group of local volunteers, Trustees staff, and consultants completed a master plan to guide the future management of this popular open space in Medfield. The group's challenge was to develop a new vision for Rocky Woods which reflected changes in visitor use and ensured the property's long-term integrity. The vision is to create a civilized "wilderness" which strikes that elusive balance between conservation and recreation—a principle central to the mission of The Trustees. The plan's commitment is dual: (1) to protect the scenic, historic, and ecological resources of the landscape and (2) to honor the reservation's tradition of public access and recreation.

The master plan has been brought to life by landscape architect, Richard "Skip" Burck. The area around Chickering Pond will remain the focal point of



Tomorrow's conservationists search for wildlife in Chickering Pond.

the reservation. Already, the picnic pavilion has been reroofed and its timbers replaced. Soon, new picnic areas will be created. In addition, parking along the entrance drive will be enhanced and screened with shrubs. The large, deteriorating asphalt parking lot will be dug out and turned into a wildflower meadow. Several dilapidated structures, constructed in the 1940s/50s, but no longer in use, will be demolished and their sites naturalized with plantings. Shoreline paths will be reinforced and beautified with understory trees and shrubs. Trail heads will be better marked. And, if funding permits, a log cabin will be converted into a Visitor's Center.

Thanks go to volunteers Paul Horovitz, Stephen Browne, Bob Costello, Will Goldthwait (great-grandson of the reservation's donor, Dr. Joel E. Goldthwait), Jane Hayes, Eric O'Brien, Caroline Standley, Electa Tritsch, and Ridge White. Elissa Landre, Director of MAS' Broadmoor Sanctuary, and Jim Early, Director of the Hale Reservation, also provided invaluable assistance. We are also grateful to Krist Apog who donated a parcel of land in Dover to the Massachusetts Land Conservation Trust, stating that it be sold to benefit the restoration of Rocky Woods.

For further information, contact Project Supervisor, Becky Siebens, at 781/821-2977 or email her at selandcons@ttor.org.

THE SEMPER VIRENS SOCIETY



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Sharing a Passion for Conservation

Doug and Jean Busch revel in historic buildings. They live in the Stanley-Lake House in Topsfield (circa 1693), one of the oldest houses in the town. Before moving to Topsfield six years ago, they spent 10 years in Basel, Switzerland, enjoying life in the Burgermeister's house dated 1492.

While in Switzerland, Doug and Jean worked for two multinational pharmaceutical firms. Now, back in New

England, they own and manage Busch International of Dossiers, Inc., a Topsfield-based company specializing in research and development of biotechnology and new drugs. Besides running a global business, both are active in community preservation projects, and Jean finds time to tend her prize-winning garden.

"I've been a supporter and admirer of The Trustees for a long time," says Doug, whose family took root in Massachusetts in the early 17th century. "Jean and I have a strong interest in historic preservation and the protection of the open landscape. The mission of The Trustees and our passion for conservation perfectly coincide."

Recently, Doug and Jean made a provision in their estate plan to benefit The Trustees. After their lifetimes, their gift by bequest will go toward the organization's endowment, helping to assure The Trustees a bright and vigorous future.

You, too, may wish to make a provision in your estate plan to benefit The Trustees. *For information on how to name The Trustees in your will, or on a range of other planned giving opportunities, please call Eloise Hodges, Director of Planned Giving, at 978/524-1876.*

Please let us know

- ☐ I would like information on how to include The Trustees in my will.
- ☐ I would like information on ways to receive income for life while making a planned gift to benefit The Trustees.
- ☐ I have remembered The Trustees in my estate plan. In recognition of my planned gift, please make me a member of *The Semper Virens Society*, which means 'forever green'.

Mr. Mrs.
Ms. Miss

First

Middle Initial

Last

Address

City / Town

State

Zip Code

()
Telephone

Please fill out and return this form to:

Eloise Hodges, Director of Planned Giving • The Trustees of Reservations
572 Essex Street, Beverly, MA 01915-1530 or call 978/524-1876



Going Places... SPECIAL Watching Butterflies at PLACES! World's End in Hingham

As a teenager, growing up in Hull, I used to look admiringly at the beautiful upland meadows of World's End in Hingham and wish we had the same in our little town. World's End has always been a magical sort of place for me. It is a superb spot to watch Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Eastern Bluebirds, Buffleheads, and all manner of birds, common and uncommon. The fields, woods, and coastline hold a number of botanical surprises, as well, but it is for butterflies that I find the rolling meadows of this peninsula reservation most fascinating. You need not be an expert to enjoy the scene. Just grab a field guide and set out along the trails.

June brings the greatest number of butterflies, though the species diversity is not yet at its peak. Last June 9, I counted only 14 species at the reservation, yet the numbers of individuals were such that all-time Massachusetts high counts were established for five species: Hobomok Skipper (30), American Copper (550), Pearl Crescent (1,600), Common Ringlet (3,000), and Little Wood Satyr (7,300). That's more than 12,000 butterflies! There are not many places you can do that in the Commonwealth.

July butterflies at World's End include Baltimore Checkerspots (see photo), various delicate hairstreaks visiting the milkweed blossoms, American Ladies, Great Spangled Fritillaries, and Question Marks. The warmer the weather, the greater the

diversity of butterflies, which continue on the wing here until at least late October. Such southern species as the Common Buckeye show up regularly in late summer and fall and, occasionally, a great rarity will put in an appearance. One of my Thayer Academy Summer students, Trevor Wright, discovered the third state record of the Sachem within sight of the parking lot.

Butterflies are at least as satisfying to watch as birds and, in many respects, much easier. They almost always allow close inspection (as long as you move slowly), they do not mind if you talk (they are essentially deaf), and you don't have to get up at some ungodly hour to enjoy them at their best. World's End is one the best places around to enjoy them. ☿

Submitted by Trustees member, Brian Cassie of Foxboro, who serves as Director of Education for the North American Butterfly Association. He is also co-author of the National Audubon Society Field Guide to New England, Knopf, 1998

Please tell us about your favorite day trip to one of our 79 reservations! We'll highlight it here in Special Places. Mail to: Editors, Special Places, Headquarters, Long Hill, 572 Essex Street, Beverly, MA 01915-1530 or email us at cmdept@ttor.org



Baltimore Checkerspot

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The Trustees
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